# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# URBAN DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4582
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
SCARCITY OF WATER
VAIKO

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Watch Institute`s Annual Report wherein it has been stated that there is an acute scarcity of water in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the water shortage may lead to decline in life expectancy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the drinking water situation in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA )

(a): Yes, Sir. The news-item captioned `Water scarcity may cut life span in India` which appeared in The Hindustan Times, dated 15th January, 2000 and which referes to World Watch Institute`s Annual Report `State of World-2000` has come to notice.

(b): Water supply being a State subject, the responsibility for planning, formulation, execution and operation & maintenance of the water supply schemes rests with the concerned State Governments. The Ministry of Urban Development, which is the nodal Ministry for urban water supply and the Ministry of Rural Development which is the nodal Ministry for rural water supply facilitates in formulation of policy guidelines and strategies for implementation of urban water supply and rural water supply, respectively, in the States and UTs. Based on the information furnishied by the States and UT Departments in-charge of urban water supply and sanitation, about 90.00% of the urban population have access to safe drinking water supply facilities as on 31.3.97. The Working Group on Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector for 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) constituted by the Planning commission recommended a target coverage of 100% population with safe drinking water facilities in the urban areas. Ministry of Urban Development is implementing a Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census. Funds are provided under AUWSP on 50:50 matching basis by the Centre and the State Governments.

The Ministry of Rural Development has stated that to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for providing drinking water supply in rural areas, Central assistance is being provided under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)Powers have been delegated to the State Governments to plan and implement individual water supply schemes under ARWSP in the pattern of State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP).The Ministry of Rural Development has also informed that as per the information furnished by the State Governments, 97.84% of the rural habitations have been provided with access to drinking water facilities as on 1.4.99. The State Governments have been requested by the Ministry of Rural Development to prepare an Action Plan to provide access to drinking water facilities to the remaining not covered and partially covered rural habitations in the next five years.

(c)&(d): No such study has been conducted by this Ministry which would establish that water shortage may lead to decline in life expectancy.